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Vision 2020: The Sustainable Region

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REGION OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

- INFORMATION -

DATE: 1992 January 2

REPORT TO: Chairman and Members
Economic Development and Planning Committee

FROM: Alderman D. Ross
Chairman, Task Force on Sustainable Development

Alderman D. Ross
Chairman, Task Force on
Sustainable Development

SUBJECT: Vision 2020: a draft vision for Hamilton-Wentworth by the Regional Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development (PLA-92-003).

BACKGROUND:

Introduction

The Regional Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development was established by Regional Council to investigate the concept of sustainable development, as a way to guide planning, economic development, budgeting and other Regional decision making in the future. Comprised of 15 citizens and 3 regional councillors, the Task Force, through extensive consulation with residents of Hamilton-Wentworth, has developed *"VISION 2020"*, a statement of the type of community Hamilton-Wentworth should be in the year 2020. This draft vision has now been released for public review and comment.

Sustainable Development Defined

The Task Force defines sustainable development as positive change, which does not undermine

the environment or social systems upon which we and future generations are dependent. Sustainable development requires the integration of economic, environmental and social factors in both private and public decision making, to ensure a viable future for us all. The success of sustainable development depends upon widespread understanding of the critical relationship between people and their environment and the will to make the necessary changes. Principles of sustainable development include:

- the fulfilment of human needs for peace, clean air and water, food, shelter, education and useful and satisfying employment;

- the maintenance of ecological integrity through careful management, rehabilitation, reduction in wastes and protection of diverse and important natural species and systems;

- provision for self-determination through public involvement in the definition and development of local solutions to environmental and development problems; and,

- achievement of equity with the fairest possible sharing of limited resources among contemporaries and between our generation and our descendants.

Who wrote *"VISION 2020"*?

The Task Force set out to achieve the objective of reaching as many people as possible. Early in our mandate, we hosted community workshops where residents from Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook, Hamilton and Stoney Creek voiced their concerns and hopes for Hamilton-Wentworth's future. These discussions provided our first glimpse into the type of community people wanted by people in our region.

During the spring of 1991, assistance was received from 35 people who met with us as members of 5 working groups. Each group developed a vision statement centred on a specific topic area. In June 1991, we sponsored a community forum where each working group presented their vision statement and listened to the view of citizens who participated in the forum.

We also involved people normally overlooked. Over 20 groups such as rural seniors, native groups, and recent immigrants expressed their views and concerns through a focus group process. Since August 1991, we have been examining the working group vision statements, submissions made at the community forum and community workshops and the statements made by the focus groups. *"VISION 2020"* is a presentation of the views of the people of our region, as understood and expressed through the Task Force.

Where do we go from here?

The Task Force hopes that *"VISION 2020"* becomes the object of spirited community debate. Copies of the draft vision have been direct mailed to over 300 organizations and agencies region-wide, along with a letter requesting their comments and suggestions. As well, our third newsletter, including the text of the draft vision, is being distributed at the end of January, across the region, through newspapers, community centres and libraries. Citizens will be able

to submit written comments to the Task Force as well as arrange to make an oral presentation at public hearings, to be held in the last week of March.

Once all public comments have been received, the Task Force will revise the draft vision with the intention of submitting a final vision to Regional Council for consideration in late May or early June, 1992. Concurrently, the Task Force will be designing strategies to implement the vision statement, through a series of teams. Final strategies to implement the vision will be presented for public review in late 1992, before going to Regional Council for consideration in December, 1992.

I encourage you to take part in the Task Force's work by contributing your thoughts and ideas on *"VISION 2020"*.

Attach.
MEH/meh

Vision 2020: The Sustainable Region

DRAFT

An Overview

In the year 2020 Hamilton W [illegible] living in a region made up of comp [illegible] that includes productive farms, [illegible]

We are an environmentally [illegible] is cherished and where [illegible] have ample opportunity [illegible]

We are an economically, socially and [illegible] opportunities for individuals, [illegible] community life.

We are a caring [illegible] including [illegible] refugees. People live longer in good health.

Finally, we are a vibrant, vigorous [illegible] attracts wealth producing industries [illegible] community to create a diver[illegible] polluting, energy efficient [illegible] manufacturing [illegible] sustainable [illegible] response to global economic ch[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] civic pride. [illegible] corridors [illegible] food and [illegible] areas [illegible] wildlife for a protected habitat to exist.

[illegible] ecological [illegible] systems [illegible] government, [illegible] and help educate [illegible] are a model [illegible] benefits, [illegible] evaluation of public [illegible]

Our Communities

[illegible] that man-made communi[illegible] people's nee[illegible] Green

corridors [illegible]
countryside, natural [illegible]
lakeshore. Our [illegible]
respect for nature [illegible]
fulfilled

In the year [illegible]
neighbourhoods [illegible]
activities [illegible]
needs for [illegible]
gathering [illegible]
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everyone an opportu[illegible]
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[illegible]
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Getting [illegible]

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Government is coordinated, efficient and easily accessible. A well-educated, literate population is seen as a total community responsibility. Schools are leaders in effective learning and excellence in teaching. Lifelong learning is valued and supported across the community. All citizens are knowledgeable about sustainable development and quality of life issues. Our cultural institutions and groups advocate values consistent with environmental sustainability. Educational institutions instill sustainable values and citizens pursue sustainable lifestyles.

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Livelihood

A stable, flexible economy is achieved through the effective use and development of all community resources. This means not only land, capital, equipment and community services, but the continued improvement and retention of a skilled workforce. Economic strategies, set through a cooperative process involving citizens, industry, government, education and labour, include effective job-training and re-training programmes. Young adults find employment opportunities in the region.

The region is home to numerous firms that carry out research and development and manufacture in sustainable economic sectors. Successful companies are characterized by high production quality and worker productivity, and innovative employment practices such as on-site daycare, jobsharing, work-at-home arrangements, and cooperative, community-based job creation. These companies provide a solid tax base for the region. Business and industry actively participate with government in advanced skill training programmes, including programmes designed to enhance employment accessibility for the physically and mentally challenged. Firms are at the forefront of energy efficiency and pollution control and prevention.

Hamilton-Wentworth is now home to a whole new economic sector based on the natural resources of the region. Burlington Bay is a base for nature-oriented tourism and recreation, that includes the Niagara Escarpment, waterfalls and Carolinian forest areas of the region. The harbour is a vibrant centrepiece for the community and is accessible, clean, and humming with diversity. Recreation co-exists with use of the harbour as an essential marine transportation link.

Agriculture, now considered a strategic community resource, is a vibrant part of the regional economy, which makes a valued contribution to our overall quality of life. The farming community is economically viable and environmentally sensitive, capable of supporting family farming operations that are competitive internationally. The farming community is in harmony with neighbouring urban areas using clean, organic urban waste to enhance the soil. Prime agricultural land is recognized by all citizens as irreplaceable and strong policies and programs ensure its continued use for food production. Moreover, agricultural soils are continuously improved through the widespread use of sustainable farm practices. Vacation farming ensures an enhanced profile for local agriculture.

Is This Your Vision?

As you read Vision 2020 think about what type of community you would like Hamilton-Wentworth to be thirty years from now. Does Vision 2020 analyze your dreams of the future? What is missing? What should be changed or improved? We invite you to make your comments and views known to the Task Force.

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